

## Message Text

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PAGE 01      GEORGE 01926 171718Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02  
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-08 COME-00 AID-05  
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R 171630Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5127  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW) GY  
SUBJECT: SEMIOFFICIAL PRESS COMMENTARY ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRIP  
TO GUYANA

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE PUBLIC IMPACT OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S  
VISIT REMAINS STRONG AND POSITIVE. THE "GUYANA CHRONICLE"  
CHIEF POLITICAL ANALYST MOHAMED HAMALUDIN WHOSE WRITING  
REFLECTS GOG "UNOFFICIAL" VIEWS AND POSITIONS, HAS  
DISCUSSED THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE VISIT FOR US-GUYANESE  
RELATIONS. THE ARTICLE REFLECTS A POSITIVE VIEW AND IS  
CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE BUT IS ALSO AN  
ATTEMPT TO RESTRAIN THE EUPHORIA AND PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS  
THAT A DRAMATIC ECONOMIC RELIEF OPERATION FROM THE US  
MIGHT BE UNDERWAY. IT STATED, HOWEVER, THAT A TEST OF  
US INTENTIONS WOULD BE TO PROVIDE MATERIAL ASSISTANCE  
TO BACK UP ITS EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT. IT ALSO CITED  
INDICATIONS THAT THE RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS  
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PAGE 02      GEORGE 01926 171718Z

(PNC WAS ADOPTING A NEW POSITION TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE  
FOREIGN INVESTMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A MAJOR EDITORIAL ARTICLE IN THE PRINCIPAL GOVERN-  
MENT OWNED DAILY "GUYANA CHRONICLE," MOHAMED HAMALUDIN  
EVALUATED THE IMPLICATIONS FOR US-GUYANA RELATIONS  
AND FOR GUYANA OF AMB. YOUNG'S VISIT. THE AMBASSADOR'S

CLOSENESS TO PRESIDENT CARTER WAS CITED AS HIS BEST QUALIFICATION, GIVING HIM ACCESS TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE US GOVERNMENT AND ELIMINATING BUREAUCRATIC RED TAPE.

2. HAMALUDIN THEN NOTED THAT, ALTHOUGH MR. YOUNG HAD A REPUTATION AS A CONTROVERSIAL MAN AND ONE WHO WAS SYMPATHETIC TO PROBLEMS FACING UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES HE WAS THE LEADING SPOKESMAN FOR THE AMERICAN SYSTEM. ACCORDING TO HAMALUDIN MANY PARTS OF THE THIRD WORLD WERE BEING PERSUADED THAT THE AMERICAN SYSTEM ITSELF WAS THE FOUNTAINHEAD OF MOST OF THE EVIL IN THE WORLD TODAY. HE WONDERED HOW THE US AMBASSADOR WOULD RESOLVE THE DILEMMA OF BEING "VERY AMERICAN" WHILE AT THE SAME TIME BEING SYMPATHETIC TO THE CAUSE OF THE THIRD WORLD.

3. IN ADDITION HAMALUDIN QUESTIONED WHETHER THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IN GENERAL AND YOUNG IN PARTICULAR WOULD BE ABLE TO PERSUADE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO BACK UP THE ADMINISTRATION'S SYMPATHY WITH MATERIAL SUPPORT. THE ARTICLE REITERATED THE VIEWPOINT THAT HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE ONE OF THE FOCAL POINTS OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY, ENTAILED ECONOMIC RIGHTS INCLUDING FREEDOM FROM DISEASE AND FROM EXPLOITATION AS WELL AS THE POLITICAL RIGHTS OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND OF THE PRESS. HAMALUDIN NOTED THE RECENT INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03      GEORGE 01926 171718Z

USAID PROJECTS, STATING THAT THE TIMING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT SO SOON AFTER AMB. YOUNG'S VISIT WAS COINCIDENTAL. HAMALUDIN GAVE A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECTS AND QUOTED AMB. YOUNG AS STATING THAT CAPITAL FINANCING WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

4. HAMALUDIN THEN QUOTED AN EXCERPT FROM A BRIEFING GIVEN TO THE US PRESS CORPS BY MINISTER OF STATE KIT NASCIMENTO. NASCIMENTO WAS ASKED IF US BASED MULTINATIONAL FIRMS UNDERSTOOD GUYANA'S POSITION AND HE REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT THINK SO. IN RESPONSE TO A FURTHER QUESTION HE STATED THAT IT WOULD BE FUTILE FOR GUYANA TO TRY TO CONVINCE THEM. THE MINISTER OF STATE THEN STATED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD COMMENT ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT AT THE PNC CONGRESS. HAMALUDIN SPECULATED THAT THIS MAY HAVE BEEN A CLARIFICATION OF THE ESTABLISHED POLICY OF CAUTION TOWARD FOREIGN INVESTMENT BUT ALSO TOOK NOTE OF ADVICE "FROM SOME SOURCES KNOWN TO BE CLOSE TO THE ADMINISTRATION" CALLING FOR A MORE ATTRACTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR ATTRACTING FOREIGN INVESTMENT. THE JOURNALIST CONCLUDED

BY REMARKING THAT THE PNC POSITION ON PRIVATE INVESTMENT WILL HAVE IMPORTANT RAMIFICATIONS BOTH FOR DOMESTIC POLITICS AND FOR US-GUYANESE RELATIONS. HAMALUDIN'S FINAL OBSERVATION WAS THAT US-GUYANESE RELATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE BASED ON MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND EQUALITY.

5. COMMENT: HAMALUDIN'S HOPE THAT AMERICAN EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT WILL BE FOLLOWED UP BY SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN AID TO EXTRICATE GUYANA OUT OF ITS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES REFLECTS THE VIEWS OF MANY GUYANESE OFFICIALS. HAMALUDIN'S MUSINGS ABOUT THE ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN THE GUYANESE ECONOMY ADD TO OTHER REPORTS, INCLUDING MINISTER NASCIMENTO'S STATEMENT TO THE PRESS, THAT MEASURES FOR ATTRACTING FOREIGN PRIVATE INVESTMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 GEORGE 01926 171718Z

ARE UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION. MANY GUYANESE EXPECT THAT THE PNC'S BIENNIAL CONGRESS WILL DECIDE ON THIS ISSUE. HAMALUDIN WAS OBVIOUSLY UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO WRITE AN ARTICLE FAVORABLE TOWARD AMB. YOUNG AND THE US, AND WHILE HOPEFUL ABOUT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, CAUTIOUS IN ITS PREDICTIONS. THE GOG OBVIOUSLY IS TRYING TO REDUCE THE EUPHORIA THAT WAS AROUSED BY THE VISIT AND MAKE CLEAR THAT THE GUYANESE SHOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY EXPECT MONEY TO POUR FROM HEAVEN, I.E., THE UNITED STATES. BLACKEN

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